

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 11-15 and 27-30 are pending in the application.

Claims 27-29 are allowed.

Claims 8-10 and 16-26 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 3-7, 11-15, and 30 are amended.

Claims 31-44 are new.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C §102

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. D83,501 ("Carter").

Claim 11 has been amended to clearly distinguish over the Carter reference by recite a portable helical loop yard game obstacle having an attaching device attaching the entrance to the playing surface, wherein the obstacle is removably positional in different orientations on the playing surface. The Carter reference indicates a device as being part of a miniature golf course unit, which implies that the obstacle is not removably positional, since the device must remain in a fixed location in order to maintain the correct orientation with the device's exit and the target golf ball hole, also located in a fixed position in the golf course unit.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of O'Herron and.

The rejection is respectfully traversed, however claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12-15 have been amended to clarify the subject matter being claimed and to facilitate bringing this case into allowance.

Claim 1 recites one or more portable solid-surface game obstacles structured to be temporarily affixed to the playing field by removable securing stakes. The device disclosed in the Carter reference is not portable as it is affixed as an integral part of a miniature golf course unit, as previously described. Additionally, the Carter reference would not be functional if combined with the O'Herron reference, since there is no teaching how removable securing stakes could be affixed to a miniature golf course unit as shown in the Carter reference.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12-15 have been amended to include other features not disclosed or suggested by any of the references cited by the Examiner. For example, claim 3 includes receivers forming elongated support structures as supported by FIGS. 5A and 5B and at page

5, lines 23-25. Amended claims 4, 6, 7, and 12-15 are supported by FIGS. 3A-4C and at page 5, lines 25-30.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of O'Herron in further view of Angell.

The rejection is respectfully traversed, however claim 5 has been amended to clarify the subject matter being claimed and to facilitate bringing this case into allowance.

Claim 5 recites stakes coded corresponding with an identification included on a game ball. The amendment is supported by the specification at page 12, lines 12-18. The flags identified in Angell do not include a code correspond to an identification included on a game ball, rather the flags are identified as being different colors or different nations or different characters simply to distinguish one flag from another (page 1, column 2, lines 1-5).


New claims 31, 36 and 37 are supported in the specification at page 4, line 25 to page 5, line 18, which describes two example obstacles that may be placed "end to end" such that respective "ramps are facing each other". New claims 32 and 38 are supported in the specification at page 6, lines 16-21. New claims 33-35 and 39-44 are supported by FIG. 1.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, 11-15 and 27-44 of the application as amended is solicited.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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